



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of H.B. No. 5504
An Act Concerning An Act Concerning Siting Of Cell Phone Towers Near Schools.

Energy and Technology Committee
March 18, 2010

Dear Senators Fonfara, and Witkos, Representatives Nardello, and Williams and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am respectfully requesting your consideration of H.B. 5504, An Act Concerning An Act Concerning Siting Of Cell Phone Towers Near Schools that prohibits cell towers to be located within 750 of schools. I would however, like the committee to amend this bill to also include **day care centers**. The original proposal for this concept included day care centers.

The genesis of this bill was when one of the cell phone companies applied to the Connecticut Siting Council for permission to place a cell tower on property adjacent to a local elementary school.

We currently may not have the scientific evidence that proves beyond a doubt there are negative health factors that are associated with having cell phone towers near schools and day care centers, but we are all aware of the fears associated with them. Parents are understandably extremely concerned about their children's developmental health when they are exposed to the electromagnetic fields on a daily basis.

The Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996 states the Council must consider the environmental impact in the siting of a facility. However, it is not required to take into consideration health factors associated with possible harmful emissions emanating from the electronic fields of a cell tower.

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I urge the committee to discuss the negative health effects with the Connecticut Siting Council and, if necessary, mandate the Council to disallow a cell tower to be sited next to a school or day care center.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lile R. Gibbons

Lile Gibbons
State Representative